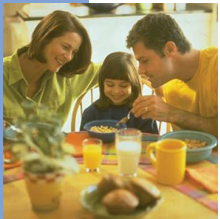


The Vision for the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health, University of Aberdeen



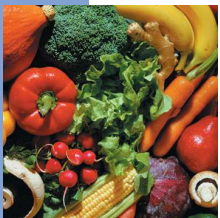
The University of Aberdeen and the Rowett Research Institute are at advanced stages of merger negotiations, with the vision of making Aberdeen a world leader in nutrition and health research. The ambition is to build on the reputations of the Rowett Institute and of the University of Aberdeen and to create a new Institute of Nutrition and Health targeted towards Sustainable Health (preventing disease). This exciting new initiative will bring together extensive capabilities and expertise in nutritional research to conduct cutting edge science aimed at preventing disease and improving health through nutrition into one research centre. Specifically, the Institute within the University will undertake research that leads to an ability to accurately predict diet-related disease susceptibility and provides evidence-based nutritional, therapeutic and public health strategies for disease prevention.

An opportunity for improving health in the 21st century



There is increasing recognition of the important contribution prevention strategies can make to public health and to minimising health inequalities. One of the ways this will be achieved is through improved nutrition, as diet offers great potential as a means for long-term sustainable health.

To date we have only scratched the surface of our understanding of how diet can affect our long-term health. Nevertheless the unravelling of the human genome and the development of new molecular technologies is providing the tools with which to understand why humans respond differently to diets and this is providing new opportunities to understand how nutrition affects human health.



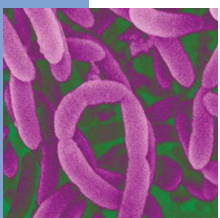
We now have an ability to develop prognostic tools (biomarkers) that will help us predict the onset of disease and indeed the ability to determine an individual's potential, at birth, to develop chronic diseases in later life is within our grasp. Equally such biomarkers will help us diagnose, and correct, life-course deviations in health status bringing us closer to the prospect that the development of chronic diseases could be minimised through both robust lifelong dietary advice and, where necessary, tailored therapeutic strategies.

Adoption of such sustainable health strategies by the community also requires a sound understanding of the social, psychology and economics of interventions, as well expertise and skills on how to test the success of population based interventions that can then be used to guide public health policy. The expertise within the University of Aberdeen's Institute of Applied Health Sciences is recognized as outstanding in this area.



The physical relocation of the nutritional expertise of the Rowett Research Institute to a new building on the Foresterhill site, close to the Institute of Applied Health Sciences as well as the biomedical research capability of the University's Institute of Medical Sciences, provides a unique opportunity for Scotland to develop a research centre of international standing focused on nutrition for health.

The pre-clinical focus of the work will build upon current clinical strengths in cancer, gastrointestinal, metabolic, vascular, mental health and musculoskeletal problems. The research will be underpinned by wealth creation and educational activities to ensure the maximum return for Scotland and a sustainable flow of people able to undertake the research, or use it in their everyday practice (e.g. policy makers, teachers, health care providers, caterers and the food industry).



The opportunity for economic development lies in the translational and applied prospects arising from the high quality research activities and delivering a platform to the food and drink industry in Scotland. In particular, the opportunity for Scotland is to capitalize on the growing markets of niche products in the area of health enhancing foods. The new Institute will provide a focus for support to the industry within the growing regulatory framework of nutraceuticals and healthy foods.

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